PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

SEVENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION

OF THE

SUPERINTENDENTS OF THE POOR

AND UNION ASSOCIATION,

COMPRISING

THE PRESENT AND PAST SUPERINTENDENTS OF THE POOR, COMMISSIONERS OF CHARITIES, OFFICERS OF THE STATE PUBLIC SCHOOL, OFFICERS OF BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATIONS AND PENAL AND REFORMATORY INSTITUTIONS, KEEPERS OF POOR HOUSES AND COUNTY JAILS

OF THE

STATE OF MICHIGAN,

HELD AT

KALAMAZOO, JANUARY 21, 22, AND 23, 1880.

LANSING, MICH.:
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OCEANA—David Johnson.
OSCEOLA—Henry A. Clark.
ST. JOSEPH—J. F. Van de Vanter, D. M. Bateman, E. Flanders.
ST. CLAIR—Uriah Hayden.
SHIAWASSEE—C. Pond.
VAN BUREN—A. Van Auken, W. W. Hodge.

Dr. A. T. Metcalf, President of the Village, being introduced, welcomed the Association, as follows:

Mr. President and Members of the Union Association.

In behalf of the municipal authorities, and the people of Kalamazoo, it is made my pleasant duty to extend to you a cordial welcome to our village. In common with all good people, we feel a deep interest in your work; in common with all *tax payers*, we expect you, gentlemen, to teach us how to keep pauperism and its cost at a minimum; and in common with all *humane* people, we also expect you to inaugurate such policies and measures as will confer, with this minimum of cost, the maximum of benefit on the helpless and the worthy poor. Yours is no holiday task, nor is it a temporary duty. The poor are with us and they will be always with us. The laws of hereditary transmission, the accidents of birth, of fortune and of life, the effects of vice on the vicious and on the innocent as well, the very elements of "earth, air, fire and water," all combine to create a variable percentage of mental, moral, and physical feebleness and helplessness, because of which men, women, and children necessarily become the objects of our intelligent and humane benificence. I say *intelligent* and *humane* benificence, for, in these days *the manner* in which a state or a municipality provides for its poor, has come to be regarded (and justly so) as an infallible index or exponent of the average intelligence and humanity and civilization of its people. I feel warranted in saying that the people of Kalamazoo County desire to do their full duty to their poor and unfortunate, and to do it too, in a humane and intelligent way. We therefore, welcome you to our Poor-house; not, let me say, because of any benefit we may expect it to confer on you, but because we desire to avail ourselves of any suggestions you may make, by which we may improve its management and thereby increase its usefulness to the proper objects of our bounty. We welcome you, also, to our jail; not so much because we expect you to teach us how to keep the vicious *in*, as because we hope you will tell us how to keep tramps *out*. I am also requested, by the proper authority, to welcome you to the great Asylum for the Insane, established by the State of Michigan in our midst, not only because of the great interest you feel in this great hospital for the cure of insanity, but especially because it is highly desirable that you carefully consider and perhaps advise the State Legislature how the pauper insane that are *incurable* may be properly and safely cared for, so as not to fill up the wards and dormitories of this great hospital, to the exclusion of those other unfortunates who *can be cured*. We welcome you also to our homes, and to an inspection of our manufactories and industries, where capital conspires with labor to make those homes comfortable; to our water works and fire department, that protect from the devouring element the homes that shelter rich and poor alike; to our public schools and libraries, whence come education, knowledge and refinement, to inform, adorn, and beautify our homes; and to whatever else there may be in our midst, that tends to build up and

fortify *the home*—the Anglo-Saxon's castle—the bulwark of the State—the guardian of morals—the joy of the rich and the true haven of the poor. When every man has a *family* and every family a *home*, your occupation as Superintendents of the Poor will be almost, if not altogether, gone. Again, Mr. President, and Members of the Association, in behalf of our people I bid you welcome to Kalamazoo, and a hearty God speed in your good work.

President Humphrey, in fitting terms made brief reply to the address of welcome.

On motion of Supt. Hodge, a committee to provide a programme for the work of the session was appointed by the chair consisting of Supt's Hodge, Hyde, and Lewis, to which, on motion, Sec'y Cobb was added.

Supt. Hall moved that the convention accept an invitation to visit the Asylum at two o'clock P. M. on Thursday, which motion prevailed.

The following communication received from Chief O'Neill, of the Kalamazoo Fire Department, was, on motion, accepted. The time of making the visit was left for future determination:

OFFICE OF THOS. O'NEILL,
CHIEF ENGINEER, KALAMAZOO FIRE DEPARTMENT,
Kalamazoo, Mich., January 21, 1880.

S. D. HUMPHREY, M. D.,
Pres. State Association of Sup'ts of the Poor:

DEAR SIR,—The Officers and Members of the State Association of Superintendents of the Poor are respectfully invited to witness the working of the Water Works System and Fire Department of this Village, at such time as they may find convenient during their stay in Kalamazoo.

Respectfully yours,
THOS. O'NEILL,
Chief Engineer Fire Department.

The Committee on Programme made the following report:

To the President and Members of the S. P. and U. A. of Michigan:

Your Committee on Programme for the work of the Association on Thursday would respectfully report and recommend that, after the usual opening services, and the reading of the minutes of the previous day, reports from Superintendents of the Poor from the several Counties be next in order, and that the Counties be called alphabetically. That a report from the Home of the Friendless of Kalamazoo be made a special order for 10 o'clock; and after the reading of such report and hearing such comments as may be made thereon, the reports of Superintendents be resumed.

The Convention having accepted an invitation to visit the Asylum at 2 o'clock P. M., your committee assume that the afternoon will be occupied.

It is understood that at the evening session Hon. C. D. Randall, of the Board of Control of the State School at Coldwater will present a paper relating to an Industrial School for delinquent girls and your Committee recommend that a paper prepared by Mrs. N. B. Jones, of Lansing, which was read

at the last meeting of the Association be also read, and that such discussion as these papers may elicit, close the work of the day.

W. D. HODGE,
A. O. HYDE,
ISAAC LEWIS,
J. T. COBB,
Committee.

The President invited a general discussion upon the subject of pauperism and matters pertaining thereto, and called upon Judge Hall of Battle Creek. That gentleman thought the ladies should have the floor first, and in response to an invitation Mrs. d'Arcambal of Kalamazoo made some remarks. She said she had visited many of the Prisons and Poor-Houses in the State, and related her experience. She had been much pleased with the improvement which, from year to year, has been made in all our institutions having the care and maintenance of people under the ban of misfortune or crime. Of all the County Poor Houses she had visited, that of Montcalm she found the best, the most comfortable and those in charge most devoted to the care of the inmates. She described with enthusiasm the clean clothing on the persons, and the beds; the air of neatness, snugness, kindness, and content which pervaded the entire establishment within and without. The speaker alluded with pleasure to the excellent cup of tea that was given her as the best she had found anywhere. She had gone there with the county doctor and both were entirely unexpected. Such a Poor-House in such good hands was an honor to the people of that county, to the State itself, and, indeed, to the name of humanity. It would be no disgrace to be put into such a house, whether for temporary relief, or for indigent old age, or helplessness, to pass the remainder of life.

Mrs. d'Arcambal spoke well of the Osceola Poor-House and several others. There were some, however, which were a disgrace to their Counties.

The little speech of Mrs. d'Arcambal called out Mr. H. H. Hinds, member of the Board of Control of Coldwater Public School. He warmly indorsed Mrs. d'Arcambal's statements about the Montcalm Poor-House, and then went on to speak of the impolicy of allowing Supervisors to dispense the poor fund. He showed conclusively that the wisest, cheapest and best way was to place the expenditures of the poor funds in the hands of County Superintendents.

The discussion became general, Messrs. Hall, Clark, Van Auken, Smith, Hodge, Yeomans of Ionia, and others taking part. Mr. Green of Eaton charged Superintendents with being so sympathetic that they lost sight of the law and their legitimate duties. He was opposed as a rule to granting any temporary relief; only those unable to be removed to a Poor-House should have temporary relief; paupers could be better and more cheaply provided for at such institutions, and if our County Poor-Houses were what they ought to be, it would be no disgrace or hardship to live there until able to help them-

selves. The law was all right as it was if Superintendents would only live up to it. Mr. Green was sharply replied to. Mr. Clark of Osceola said that no rule could apply to all cases; much must be left to the discretion and good judgment of the Superintendent. Mr. Van Auken showed how much good had been done by temporary relief, wisely used; it would not do to send children to Poor-Houses,—it would ruin them; by judicious care and at very little more expense for the time being, the worthy, helpless and poor could be tided over till they could again help themselves and never more be a burden to the community. The Jackson Superintendent has found temporary relief for most cases the best and wisest use of the people's money. Mr. Hyde and others went for the tramps, and told how this pest was served; in Eaton, Calhoun and Lenawee, the problem had fairly been solved by sending the fellows to Ionia for long terms and the tramp visited those Counties no more unless they could hear of some new or green Supervisor whom they could manage to beat for a term. It was generally agreed that the dispensing of relief to the poor in all cases should be left to County Superintendents.

The discussion proved interesting and instructive and was continued until after ten o'clock, when on motion the Convention adjourned to meet at half-past eight Thursday morning.

COURT HOUSE, KALAMAZOO,
Thursday Morning, Jan. 22, 1880.

The Convention was called to order by President Humphrey and prayer offered by the Rev. W. H. Thomas of Kalamazoo.

Supt. A. O. Hyde of Calhoun was called to the chair.

The Minutes of the previous session were read by the Secretary and approved.

The chair appointed a committee on Resolutions as follows: A. Van Auken, S. A. Yeomans and D. A. Bateman.

In addition to the gentlemen present yesterday there were present at this morning session, Superintendents John T. Cook and J. F. Clark of Mecosta; W. L. Coffinberry and A. H. Guile of Kent, C. W. Calkins and S. S. Dryden of Allegan, D. T. Green of Eaton, O. F. Burroughs of Kalamazoo, Henry W. Lord, Secretary, and Bishop Geo. D. Gillespie of the State Board of Charities, Mrs. S. L. Fuller and Mrs. E. Putnam of the Women's Benevolent Home, Mrs. A. L. Jarvis of St. Mark's Home and Hospital of Grand Rapids, Mr. and Mrs. Dewing of the Children's Home, and Mrs. d'Arcambal of Kalamazoo.

The following communication was received from the President of the Board of Education of the Village of Kalamazoo:

To the Michigan State Association of County Superintendents of the Poor:

GENTLEMEN,—You are respectfully invited to visit the Public Schools of District No. One, Kalamazoo, Mich.

L. C. CHAPIN,
President of Board of Education.

KALAMAZOO, January 21st, 1880.

Also a communication from the President of the Village, as follows:

KALAMAZOO, January 22d, 1880.

To the President and Members of the Union Association:

At the request of the Officers of the Ladies Library Association, I have the honor of extending to you an invitation to visit their Library building on Rose Street. If invitation is accepted, please inform me of the time when you will make the visit, that I may notify the officers of the Association.

Hoping you will find the time to accept this invitation and see what the ladies of Kalamazoo have done and are doing for the education and refinement of our people, I am

Respectfully yours,
A. T. METCALF,
President of Village.

And another from L. Egleston & Co., of the Kalamazoo Spring Works:

OFFICE OF KALAMAZOO SPRING AND AXLE WORKS,
Kalamazoo, January 22d, 1880.

A. T. Metcalf, Esq.:

SIR,—We should be very much pleased to have you and the County Superintendents of the Poor visit our Spring Works at such hours as you may desire on the 23d.

Respectfully,
L. EGLESTON & CO.

Mr. Hall moved that as the afternoon of to-day will be all the time that can be devoted by the Association to the acceptance of the invitations received from the various organizations of the Village of Kalamazoo, and as that will be quite insufficient to respond to all, that each member of this body feel at liberty to take such direction as his inclination shall dictate. Carried.

The Chairman invited Superintendents to report as Counties were called by the Secretary, and suggested that such verbal reports be limited to speeches of five minutes.

From the statements made, it appears that there is no uniformity of practice in the management of cases of like character seeking relief presented to Superintendents.

In some Counties physicians are paid a definite fee and mileage, usually one-half or two-thirds an ordinary charge. In others a salary is paid for the service rendered by a physician in a given district.

In one thing all concurred—that such a thing as a uniform rule in the management of applicants for relief was out of the question. The successful administration of the purpose of the law must depend on the exercise of good judgment on the part of the Superintendents.

As might be expected from such a body, there was very general agreement that a judicious disbursement of the public funds was much more likely to be made by Superintendents than when committed to the hands of a large num-

ber of Supervisors of a County, with the liability of change incident to an official term of but one year's duration.

In the reports of Superintendents the treatment of tramps was the ever recurring subject that baffled the experience alike of old Superintendents and those less familiar with this institution of comparatively recent introduction in this State. What shall we do with them is the problem that has developed much talk at these annual sessions, and the satisfactory solution of the question has been left for future experience and wisdom to settle, and that it will be settled soon and wisely no one seemed confident.

Sheriff Gates of Kalamazoo County being present was called on for an opinion upon the tramp question. He thought under the treatment they were receiving in this County, that is, jailed for a night, nearly all but the theiving class would soon disappear. Among those that he had taken in under the direction of the Board of Supervisors, he was satisfied there were some worthy men, but a large percentage were of the other sort.

The hour for the special order, a report from the Home of the Friendless of Kalamazoo having arrived, the following report was read by the matron, Mrs. C. C. Head:

The Childrens' Home of Kalamazoo was instituted February, 1877. During the time it has been operating, it has received thirty-six children from the Village of Kalamazoo and vicinity who have been cared for, and those who were old enough to do so have shared the benefit derived from attendance upon the Public School, Church and Sunday School.

They range from a year and a half to twelve years of age.

Fifteen of this number after a season were removed by friends having been received during a period of distressing destitution, or circumstances of other nature which deprived them of the necessaries of life. Six others were adopted in Christian families, and two provided with good homes. The remaining thirteen are at this date in strict attendance upon the Public School, with the exception of one too young, and all attend Church and Sunday School being able to commit and recite their lessons promptly.

You see as an Institution we are yet living in the day of small things which we by no means despise, but are looking anxiously for a brighter and broader beaming of the sun of prosperity, that all may come who *should*, and be rescued from homes that are only schools of vice, and be saved from the iniquity of both home and street. For these children are not as some have supposed—orphans. And yet they are *twice* orphaned. Orphaned in both parents of all they have a right to demand at their hands. To this there may be now and then an exception, but this is largely the rule.

The larger share of the children now in the Home, or of those in the Home at any one time are children of parents of foreign birth.

The home is not on a denominational basis. Its doors are open to all who *ought* to come as far as the means provided are adequate to meet the demand for supplies.

Right here it is but fair to say, the good people of Kalamazoo and vicinity are seeming to realize somewhat that the children of to-day will form the society of fifteen and twenty years hence, and will occupy the responsible

places of trust and legislation a few years later, and that no lesser motive is worthy of consideration in connection with their care and discipline than such as would serve to hasten the good time when the Kingdoms of this world shall become the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Mr. Wm. G. Dewing, who with his worthy wife have long been identified with all benevolent enterprises of their town, made some remarks explanatory of the objects of the Home. He said the institution on a small scale, was endeavoring to do a work similar to that at Coldwater and was out of debt. He urged the educational mission of the Home as a humane work, to save the neglected and keep them from lives of vice and from falling under the care of the penal institutions. Mr. Dewing referring to the tramp question, gave an experience of his own a great many years ago, when he was at Chicago and was cheated out of his ready money. He spoke of the tramps who in the western part of Michigan travel north and south, and are a different class from the "east" and "west" tramps, as the former are anxious to get work. He advocated having piles of stone at the places where the tramps usually stop, and have them break it for the roads, just to teach them a trade and bring to bear on them a condition which would put them to a healthy test.

Henry W. Lord, Secretary of the State Board of Charities, spoke on the question of "outdoor relief," enforcing his points by comparison with the experience of older countries, particularly Ireland. He supported the position taken by Judge Hall, that temporary relief was an absolute necessity, and that its only limitation must be entrusted to the judgment of the Sperintendent. A little assistance, in many cases, tided the person or the family over a crisis, after which they were able to maintain themselves; and this course preserved their self-respect and self-reliance. The danger of demoralizing such was great, however, and must be carefully guarded against.

The tramp question was complicated by the fact that some were fraudulent and some deserving,—the former predominating. The means of treating them was difficult of application in some respects, as there was some question as to who was responsible for their care. There was sometimes waste from this cause, and there had been instances where tramps had railroad passes to sell, owing to the present method of passing them about. The State could take charge of the subject without this danger. With regard to the work which it was sometimes proposed to have for this class, such as wood sawing or stone breaking, it was not a suitable plan in many cases, for many of the class have spent their lives in work which unfitted them for such service. A central means of providing for the whole class would be able to furnish employment suitable to all.

Mr. Cobb of Kalamazoo stated that he did not serve all tramps alike, and where he had an application from one who was deserving he gave him better care than the professional case. He thought the whole subject could be best

taken care of by a couple of State work-houses, as had been recommended in a resolution passed by the convention last year.

Judge Hall of Calhoun and Mr. Van Auken of Van Buren endorsed the same plan, even if only the matter of economy was concerned. On motion of the former, the convention readopted the following resolution, passed last year:

Resolved, That it is the sense of this convention that the Legislature should locate, in a central part of the State, a Home of Industry, to which the tramps, now so numerous in the State, may be sent by Superintendents of the Poor, and where, through this intervention of the State, they may be able to help themselves, the State providing them the necessary labor, with buildings and facilities where the industrious tramp may find employment, and the worthless, indolent, and vicious may be made to earn, in part, at least, a subsistence, the State paying for transportation from the several counties to said House of Industry. And we recommend that the power to commit to such House of Industry be confided to the Superintendents of the Poor of the several counties of the State.

Mr. Yeomans asked about the supply of tobacco at the county houses. An official from Kent said that they furnished it, but raised it themselves. The officers who supplied the county houses with tobacco were asked to rise; twenty rose. Mr. Van Auken stated that they required the inmates in the Van Buren county house to go without tobacco. They became accustomed to it in a few weeks, and were more cleanly.

The discussion closed by an adjournment for dinner, with the understanding that the water works and fire department would be visited immediately after 1 o'clock, and that there would be no session of the Association until 7 P. M.

A large number of the members in the afternoon, after witnessing the working of the fire department under the efficient management of Chief O'Neill, went to the Asylum according to the previous determination of the Convention, he village furnishing transportation.

Nearly two hours were spent in the examination of the institution under the guidance of Dr. Palmer and his gentlemanly assistants, after which a considerable number of the members and their friends visited the Ladies' Library Association.

After a general view of the rooms of the Association, Pres. Metcalf, in behalf of the Association, in a few well-chosen words thanked the ladies and gentlemen present for the interest they had manifested in the good work of the enterprising ladies of Kalamazoo, to which Pres. Humphrey responded in his usual happy manner.

Those gentlemen who did not visit the Ladies' Library Association on their return from the Asylum, called on the gentlemanly Sheriff of Kalamazoo county, and were shown through the institution under his charge.

EVENING SESSION.

At half-past seven Pres. Humphrey called the convention to order.

Rev. Mr. Conover of Kalamazoo offered prayer.

A goodly number of the citizens assembled at the evening session, and Miss Arabella Root, assisted by Prof. S. B. Morse, entertained the Convention with very fine music.

Superintendent Alden of the State School at Coldwater read the following paper, prepared by Miss Marion V. Dudley of Milwaukee: Subject—

DEPENDENCY AND ITS PREVENTION.

From considering how to ameliorate the condition of the dependent classes, the most thoughtful men and women are beginning to inquire most earnestly how to prevent the multiplication of these classes which is at present so appalling,—how and where shall we dam this turbulent river whose muddy ooze threatens to infiltrate all the pure waters of life,—is their serious question. All unite in the idea that the children must be cared for,—educated intellectually and morally,—and noble schools for this purpose are being established. The State Public School of Michigan is a notable instance of the kind. Private philanthropy is also alert in this direction. There seems to be a unanimous rallying to the cry, "save the children." It is an appeal which excites no opposition, and only needs to be sounded on and on, as it will be, in order to secure education and comfortable homes for all the dependent children in the land. Every State, like Michigan, must soon have its public school, to prevent the children of its poor from becoming paupers and criminals, by developing them, as far as possible, into honorable citizens.

But even after all this imperatively needed work has been accomplished, the student of these subjects perceives that there will still be dependents, and that a still bolder work must be inaugurated and carried out, before the earth shall be freed from the scourge of the vicious. Not all the children can be educated, even with the best facilities, to lives of honor. Beyond all peradventure, the philanthropist in this department of life finds it true that the "sins of the fathers are visited upon the children even to the third and fourth generation." Children are born diseased morally as well as physically. Not more surely does scrofula in the blood of the parent perpetuate itself in the descendant than does the tendency to vice; indeed, so intimate is the relationship between physical and moral health that it is impossible to secure the one without the other. Immoralities waste the body; the body diseased vitiates the mind and character. In view of these demonstrated facts, the humanitarian of to-day who aims to prevent crime and pauperism, finds himself confronted with one of the most intricate problems of science, as well as with that popular prejudice which is so readily aroused against the fullest study of those pre-natal influences which exercise such subtle and mighty power over the destinies of mankind. He must be not only wise, but also delicate and reverent, who approaches the subject with any hope of respectful attention.

Patient research on the part of eminent scientists has proven that the "daughters of prostitutes follow their mother's career, while their sons tramp or commit crimes which shut behind them the gates of the penitentiary." Nine-tenths of all the "fallen women" of our land are the children of morally frail mothers. Since such are facts concerning the offspring of immoral

women, as is proven by statistics, how will the number be augmented when we add the children of immoral men who are often the husbands of virtuous wives! It stands beyond question that the parentage of our outcasts is vicious; nobility does not generate vice; purity does not beget impurity; the source of crime is criminal.

A large number of our convicts, themselves the hereditary victims of ancestral crime, after serving through their terms of imprisonment, return to their homes to become parents of children who, in their turn, must inevitably become a burden to the State in some future reformatory or penal institution. What is the remedy for this? It would seem that the Scientific American, in course of the past few years, had answered the question most rationally and undeniably. Is not the weapon wrested from the murderer's hand without hesitation? Is not the brand torn from the incendiary before he can fire the building if he is discovered? And should not any human being possessing the power to increase the number of criminals and paupers,—himself a felon,—should he not be deprived of that power as unhesitatingly as the murderer is dispossessed of his knife? Does he commit a greater crime even in destroying a human life than in bringing into life half a dozen or more irresponsible, dependent, dangerous beings, themselves predestined to destruction, and perhaps to corrupt or destroy some of earth's nobility?

It is also a well-known fact that abortive attempts on the part of the mother to murder her unborn child have resulted in bringing to birth a subject for the gallows. Her criminal thought, stamping itself upon the sensitive, slumbering tissues, ends in the ghastly horrors of a malefacter's execution between earth and sky, and the dreadful details of the morrow's newspaper. How is it to be prevented? Let all our wise physicians instruct the women of the land concerning these truths; let every man and woman investigate the subject, so far as is possible individually, and then set about laying the ax at the root of the evil. The labors of Hercules were light in comparison with the work here waiting to be done, if we would save our country and our homes from this horde of dependent Goths and vandals that threaten to overwhelm us. Save the children already born, as far as possible, first, and prevent the birth of future evil children, by redeeming such "fallen women" as may be redeemed; save others from falling by caring for unprotected young girls; instruct the wives and mothers; deprive offenders of dangerous power, and above all let the full light of intelligence flood the land, through such wise and reverent discussion of these sacred themes as will make all true men and women blush only for their past delinquencies.

After a song, the Hon. Henry W. Lord read by request a paper prepared by Hon. C. D. Randall of Coldwater.

FARM SCHOOLS FOR DELINQUENT GIRLS.

Now that the Michigan Legislature of 1879 has established a reform school for delinquent girls, and the Board of Control for the new proposed institution has been appointed, it may not be entirely improper, while the plan of the reformatory is under discussion, for one outside of the board—which is composed of able ladies and gentlemen—to suggest some ideas relating to the new school. The law requires that this institution shall be on the cottage plan, which is a most wholesome provision. It also requires that domestic work shall be taught in preference to any other occupation.

But there is nothing in the law preventing the Board, should it deem best, from giving outdoor work a very large place in the operations of this new school. The question of agricultural work for delinquent women in this country is a new one. It may not be found suited to American as well as European women; but a modified form of the French method might be found to be of great advantage. If the American girl cannot make roads, raise stock, and do all the heavier farm work, it may be found that she is suited to many of the lighter outdoor employments, such as garden work, poultry raising, cultivation of berries, flowers, etc., etc. Still it would be difficult to prove that the American girl is not as vigorous and capable of heavy work as the French girl, where the farm system has been tried and found to be very successful for females. For many years farm schools for delinquent and dependent boys and girls have been in operation in France, and have proved very successful. The Mettray Agricultural Colony for boys is the parent of all reform schools, and is known all over the world. There are some farm schools in France for both boys and girls, but they are generally separate.

I do not write this to make an extended argument, but to suggest the careful study of the French method for the education and reformation of delinquent girls. I do not know of any account in English of one of these schools as good as that by Madame Falliero, which I translate from the French for the benefit of those who may desire to learn of this system, in which I have been very much interested. My convictions are very strong that outdoor farm work, under farm work, under proper regulations, would be very beneficial to vicious girls of strong physique. The best authorities sustain this position. I hope some modification at least of the French system will be tried. But I will give you the paper:

[Translation from the November, 1879, number of the Bulletin of the Societe Generale des Prisons.]

Madame Aurelia Cimino Foliero had been charged by the Italian government to visit in France the agricultural institutions especially devoted to women, and to examine the industrial work sent by them to the Paris Exposition of 1878. We find in the report, which she published early in 1879, the following pages devoted to agricultural colonies which receive orphans or young prisoners; especially to that excellent institution of Darnetal, founded by the Abbe Podevin, and which Dr. Marjolin has already described to the Society General of Prisons in volume first of its bulletin, on page 128. She says:

All my investigations relating to agricultural establishments devoted to women have convinced me that there does not exist in France any school of this kind, strictly speaking, either state or municipal, but many religious communities and orphan asylums, where poor young girls are instructed and accustomed to work in the field. I endeavored to find them, but in Paris, and above all during the exposition, the task was not very easy. In the meantime I had the good fortune to know an important person, Mr. Tisserand, Director for the Agricultural Institute of Paris, and by him I was put in communication with Madame the Baroness de Pages, a very distinguished lady and the inspector of some of these schools. She graciously offered to give me all necessary information, and placed in my control some of the reports of these institutions to the minister. I find among them reports of religious communities and lay institutions, where they teach agriculture to the children they receive, but not by virtue of any compulsory regulation, all being left to the discretion of each, and it is rather an experiment in this branch of education.

According to these reports of Madame Pages, these establishments in France were 103 in number, and were situated principally in the department of the Gironde where there are more than 700 religious communities. Among these which concern themselves more especially with agriculture are reckoned, besides the celebrated Trappistes, who have cultivated the arid sands of the coast of Bayonne to Biarritz, the Sisters of Providence, the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, the Sisters of the Holy Family, a rich order of seven different branches, and the Sisters of Charity. However well these communities are subjected to the control of the government, the monastic and perpetual vow being abolished in France, many among them continually escape all

investigation, and under the general name of "pious works," receive children who become, under judiciously directed work, beneficiaries of the house.

The important establishments of this kind are the orphan asylums of Talenee and Barsac, founded by the diocese of Bordeau in 1859, by the Guardian Sisters (agricultural sisters). Each has a specialty; that of Talenee, for example, has a magnificent steam laundry and a model bake oven, made according to the most recent improvements in mechanics.

The oldest orphans, besides the cultivation of the earth, their principal occupation, do also, under the direction of three religious guardians, the washing for the other houses, and they make the bread for 150 persons, which each day is moulded by a robust young girl of eighteen years, who has charge of this work. The proceeds belong to the community which has the oversight, instruction, and the clothing of these young girls, but gives them no salary.

After having given briefly some details concerning this establishment, I come to the most interesting part of my journey,—to my visit to the Work-house Refuge of Darnetal near Rouen, concerning which I had heard vague reports.

The history of this agricultural colony for women, established hardly thirty years ago, by two charitable souls, to receive the little girls who go out from prison, has a taint of romance. The limits of this work will not permit me to relate in detail its development. I will only say that the asylum, which opened with a capital of seventeen sous, has to-day 800,000 francs, and is one of the most magnificent examples of what can be done by work and the union of women under skillful aud vigorous direction.

The founders are the Abbe Podevin, former chaplain of the Rouen prison and the Sister Marie Ernestine, who was official inspector.

One day, about thirty years ago, two young girls, whose sentence had been remitted, and who must quit the prison, wept hot tears, held by the hand and supplicated the jailer to leave them in their cell because they knew not where to find shelter; that they were alone, far from their country, dishonored by imprisonment, and without any means of support. But the order was formal; the hour of liberty, after which so many of the unfortunate sigh, had come. For others it is the sunlight, air, liberty, their family; but for these two unfortunates, on the contrary, it was loneliness, hunger, and possible relapse. During this time, at the prison gate, a horrible group of old women, like ravens which form a circle around a dead body to satisfy their voracious hunger from that which has ceased to live, attended the going out of these young girls, to speculate upon their abandoned youth.

Sister Ernestine had often observed with sadness the snares that beset prisoners whom her zeal and charity had endeavored to bring back to sentiments of virtue and repentance. The tears of these two little abandoned girls burned in her heart like a red iron. But what could she do? Between the three, she had only seventeen sous! Perhaps if she had a shelter they would suffice to buy some bread, and thus they would be saved another day. Struck with a sudden inspiration, she wrote a word to the Chaplain of the prison of Rouen, the Abbe Podevin, relating to him the sad condition of these two young girls, the perils that surrounded them, and their scanty resources. "Tell me," she said, "for the love of Heaven, what I can do to save these unfortunates." And the Chaplain responded in these brief words:

"Find a chamber, buy a loaf of bread, straw to sleep on, and a candle. To-morrow God will provide." Thus it was done; thus was founded this asylum which, as a grain confined to the earth, has grown under the protection of Providence, and has developed into a magnificent tree.

It is easy to imagine in what misery, in what fear, and in what trials passed the first years, though they never needed bread, though the number received increased more and more each day. A house and a small field were bought, and some one gave some goats. It was thus that the Abbe Podevin and the Sister Ernestine were led to learn agriculture and to teach it with profit to these young girls whom they had received. Then in the course of time they began the construction of the present establishment, to which additions continue to be made.

This work-house refuge has been for a long time chosen by the Minister of the Interior to receive those sentenced. For each the department pays about twelve cents per day until the child is fifteen years of age, for it is supposed that at that age their labor would support them, and about eight dollars for clothing outfit. Besides this, the minister has given by different titles important subsidies.

There are at Darnetal actually three hundred and six young girls of all ages above six years, born in different departments. A great number are condemned for light offenses, such as the robbery of a little bread, some morsels of sugar, or a few peas stolen from the field, or for vagabondage, and some for grave faults. I have seen one

hardly thirteen years old who had three times set fire to her parents' home, and had killed cattle.

Finally, some are imprisoned, to remove them from the corrupting examples of their parents, who oblige them to steal, or who themselves steal.

The establishment consists of a vast dwelling with a fine chapel, large halls, schools, a hospital, with a country house and a farm a little distance away upon a very agreeable hill, with about three hundred and twenty-six acres entirely cultivated by these young girls.

The only man of the house is the Abbe Podevin, a venerable man of sixty-eight years, blue eyes, lively and penetrating, sunburnt, robust, full of fire, and with a military bearing. Without speaking of the admirable qualities of his heart, it is marvelous to see how he has preserved his chosen family, from its origin, and has brought his work to the degree of moral and material prosperity it has attained.

The young girls are scarcely installed before they begin to learn to sew. They work much—too much maybe—and I found them all flourishing, with good health and happiness. There are no locks at Darnetal to retain the inmates, but none ever attempt to escape from the home, where they feel they are protected and loved.

There they sew, reel the cotton for several fabrics of the country; they make the lye for soap, the bread, cider, butter, the cheese, and do all farm work. They spade, sow and harvest, plant and prune the trees, drive the cart and the carriage, and load the hay. I will add that in only eleven days these girls made a carriage road about one mile long from the house to the farm, and constructed the telegraph line that puts in communication the two houses.

One of the specialties of this establishment is that of raising cattle and improving the stock. There are here nearly one hundred cows, more than one thousand fowls, two bulls which the young girls lead to the watering place, and twenty-three horses which they mount as veritable Amazons, without saddle, crossing along sometimes the entire hill in a grand trot with the greatest ease.

On my arrival at the station of Rouen I found to conduct me to the refuge a beautiful carriage with two vigorous horses, and for a coachman a woman, one of the most experienced inmates, who drove as a most skillful coachman. I noticed that as we passed through the city no one evinced the astonishment I had, and I concluded that the people were accustomed to see the coachman in petticoats from the female agricultural establishment at Darnetal.

It may be asked, perhaps, if such rude work does not alter in these young girls the feminine type, and the natural desire to clothe and decorate themselves with the care and solicitude proper to their sex. On this subject I have made close observations and made many inquiries, and I am happy to be able to affirm that, though they lack the grace and elegance of the young girls of the city, yet they do not want for certain feminine traits, and cultivate them. I have seen some blondes with hair dressed with a taste which gave great value to the little knots and the velvet with which they ornamented the neck. Their forms are a little thick and the hands rude, but they are compensated by the beautiful color of the skin and by the appearance of perfect health, which is much more valuable than the ill-formed and faded color of so many poor women of the city.

The clothing of the inmates of Darnetal does not set off the figure to advantage. It is composed of a short petticoat and an under waistcoat of heavy stuff, with coarse stockings, large low shoes, sometimes boots, and for the head a cap with a large brim, which keeps off the sun and the rain. Finally, on Sunday, all the young girls dress themselves in their uniform of clear blue color, with little white bonnets and black collars, which on grand solemn occasions are replaced by white collars. On this day one can say they are transformed. To see them seated in their chapel, happy and contented, and above all, to hear them sing with their fresh voices and with admirable unison, gives one a sentiment of profound peace and gentle piety.

The establishment at Darnetal, to speak with exactness, is not a theoretic or scientific school of agriculture, but rather an eminently practical school, where the best lessons are given them by their own and by the experience of others. The teachers are first the Abbe Podevin, who is a very experienced agriculturist, then by twenty-five sisters oblates (lay persons living in a convent), at the head of whom is the sister Ernestine, founder of the house, and a woman of very elevated mind, with an active charity and a noble and charming presence.

All the young girls turn instinctively to farm work, and the best proof of the superiority of their agricultural products is the medal which has been decreed them by the French Society of Agriculture, and the proceeds received from their farming. Thus from a little garden of some over two acres specially devoted to early fruits and melons they report an average of 2,000 francs per year (about $400).

In the meantime all the young girls have not the strength to support the fatigues of the field. The exceptions are, however, rare, and the chagrin they show is violent. Besides, they are rarely sick, for in the hospital, which I visited, I found but two upon the bed, and they for consumption. The reason of their excellent health surely results from the purity of the air, the abundance and the quality of the food, and the country exercises, which very wisely is alternated by sedentary labor.

The hours devoted to study are hardly two each day, and the good Abbe finds them long enough. There they learn reading, writing, arithmetic, and the first elements of geography. In my opinion there should be added more fully than they have been done, the metric system, above all in that which relates to weights and measures, which knowledge is very necessary to teach children. I found the copy books properly and well kept. The method followed for teaching them to read is the phonetic, which requires but six weeks, as I am assured at least by M'lle de Mittray, the inspector of the schools. Another work in which they become very skillful is that of winding skeins, in a large hall, built a short time since, extending with long files of winders, and with bobbins for the cotton. It is a very lucrative industry at Rouen, an especially manufacturing city.

The prisoners at their work sing hymns or strange songs, which are sometimes lugubrious recitals, with a sad refrain of offenses and punishments, probable recollections of early childhood and of stories of crime in their native place.

I noticed at Darnetal two things especially commendable. It is, first, the absolute separation of innocent children from the older convicts. They see them only at church, for the entrance of the dormitories is entirely different. The second, which proves the good sense and wisdom of the Abbe Podevin, is to restrict the too frequent religious exercises, which too often become injurious to the youth, favoring idleness, and often produce an effect contrary to what is expected.

Besides, in the colony of Darnetal, they march with the progress of the times. I have seen there in operation, to my great surprise, the telephone and the telegraph.

At the end of their time of detention, which is never under eighteen years of age, the young girls are principally placed in Normandy as gardeners, domestics, and sometimes as farmers, and they are much sought for on account of their skill. They convey with them an outfit of clothing, a little competence they have gained either by extra work or good conduct. They have always the right to return to the refuge, which remains their maternal home, if they are sick or discontented with their place.

Finally, the work is so well organized that the labor of each reacts, by commencing with the smallest girls, who are instructed by the largest. It is a species of mutual education, which produces the best results.

After the refuge asylum of Darnetal, I visited in the Haute-Marne, the agricultural asylum for women of "Saint-Loup-Sur-Anjou," of much less importance. The orphans work with the sisters in the field, and besides are instructed in other trades; but I found a great difference in the manner of directing their work and study. At Saint Loup the teaching is uncertain; there is a want of clear methods, and it moves irresolutely. The young girls learn too many things, but nothing thoroughly as they should, as they ought to acquire a profession. The pecuniary results are far inferior to those obtained at Darnetal. I found the children in excellent health.

Besides these establishments created principally by religious associations, there are others founded by private charity, and among these it is just to mention the orphan asylum of the Countess Gonvello, near Bouray. There are some other agricultural houses for the two sexes; for example, that directed by the Abbe Ponlas, near Montpellier, in Herault, and the Protestant agricultural refuge, founded by the pastor, John Bast, well known for its philanthropy, and to which was decreed the Monthyon prize for works of merit. To my great regret I was not able to visit it. None, however, has the character and the importance of the establishment of Darnetal, where the girls accomplish all the necessary work on such a large estate.

In addition to the above interesting paper by Madam Falliero of Italy, I will add a few words from Dr. Marjolin's paper above referred to, which is an enthusiastic account of his visit to Darnetal, covering some fifteen pages of the Bulletin of the Societe Generale. I give only some sentences:

To-day, as nearly thirty years of existence affords the opportunity to appreciate the results of this practice, we do not fear to affirm that, from all points of view, the devotion of young girls to farming is a remarkable idea, and is most fruitful in results; one that cannot be too well known to the public, so that similar establishments will multiply. * * * You accuse me perhaps, gentlemen, as showing too much enthusiasm for this modification introduced into our penitentiary educational

system. But I do not hesitate to proclaim that it is the one grand and magnificent idea which merits to be seriously studied by all who wish to found establishments for orphans or for dependent children. * * * The refuge at Darnetal is a fine institution, and the stranger in his visit cannot resist a favorable impression on seeing the air of contentment which rests upon the faces of the children. * * * I do not hesitate to say that the industrial refuge, or to be more plain, the Agricultural and Industrial Colony of Darnetal is a real progress, not only in what touches penitentiary questions, but in what concerns the education and professional instruction of young girls of the city and country. * * * I do not believe that any public or private establishment in France has solved in so happy a manner, and upon so vast a scale, this grand problem of women and agricultural labor.

The above papers and others emanating from the Societe Generale des Prisons of France are entitled to careful consideration. This organization is composed of some of the best minds in France, in and out of official circles. It reckons among its officers and members, Senators, Deputies, Advocates, Jurists, Government Ministers, veteran workers in social science, authors, business men and others who take an intelligent and active interest in that—one of the greatest problems of the day; How to best reduce crime, pauperism, and the burdens they entail upon society. France has also a "Superior Council of Prisons," a government board that has charge of reforming the discipline of prisons and rebuilding them upon the American cellular plan. It has been American influence, starting more especially from the London Prison Congress of 1872, which was promoted by our congress through the influence of the lamented Dr. E. C. Wines, that Europe began its first great work in reforming its preventive and punitive methods. Starting from this point, and aided by the best minds of France, that country to-day is taking the lead of all others in organized work, warmly assisted by a government friendly to the work of social reform. Prisons which were on the general European plan, which congregated prisoners in large rooms, are being remodeled by government aid and being built on the cellular plan, which originated in this country. They are even improving our plan, especially in this, that they put the cells all upon the side of the building, where they have the sunlight, and not in the center, as we do. This country will have to look to its laurels.

But far better, the wisest and best men of France are holding spirited discussions in the Societe Generale des Prisons and in the Superior Council of Prisons and in the press on the best methods of preventing dependency, which they admit is best done by saving the children of the poor. The name of our State Public School, its plan and work, is as familiar to them as any in their own land, and M. Drouin de L'huys, the venerable statesman, says of it, that "Michigan, in the inauguration of this scheme for dependent children is in advance of ancient Europe!"

The labors of such men in France, England, Germany, Italy, etc., and in our own country, must aid in solving the great problem of to-day: How best to prevent dependency and delinquency, and the burdens they entail upon society.

Miss Root favored the audience with another song, after which Supt. Hyde of Calhoun suggested that on account of the leaving of members by the morning trains of Friday, it was advisable to determine at this session where the next meeting of the Association should be held, and a motion that it be held in Lansing, the third week of January next, was adopted.

On a call for reports from benevolent associations, Mrs. Putnam, a delegate

from the Union Benevolent Society of Grand Rapids, presented and read the following report:

A review of the work of the Union Benevolent Society for the past year, gives us reason for encouragement—for a degree of satisfaction in what has been accomplished, and in the responses to our appeals, made by the liberal people of our city, our old friends, and our new allies. There has not been the demand on us the past year that there was in the preceding year. The relief afforded in the home and outside is considerably less, and of course we are bound to believe that our visitors have attended to the really needy as carefully and fully as ever before. The reduction in the calls on us is encouraging indeed. It shows two things: that the times are not so hard as the papers say; that people can and do earn a living easier than they did formerly, and that the number of persons dependent on us has decreased, because a spirit of self-dependence has been assumed and cultivated. Teaching self-helpfulness, encouraging a spirit of enviable pride in one's own ability and capabilities, is quite as useful work, both for the poor and society at large, as ministering to the physical necessities of the class which the Master has told us we should have with us always. Hence the history of the year has been a pleasant one on the whole, and although the figures are not so large, they are fully as satisfactory. During the year there have been distributed by district visitors the following supplies: new cloth of various kinds, as cotton, woolen, calico, etc., 1,115 yards; new garments, including bedding, 410 pieces; second-hand garments, 1,597. This number includes hats, hose, mittens, etc. Of course this does not incorporate by any means the whole work done by our visitors. Many a bundle of clothing or delicacy for the sick or decrepit goes from the residence of the visitor to the hovel of poverty, and no report recorded in the workings of this Society. Verily, the right hand knoweth not what the left hand doeth.

Besides this, $138.90 has been paid to dealers on orders for miscellaneous articles or provisions. We do not intend in giving outside aid to interfere with the province of the city and county officers of the poor, in furnishing provisions. Our relief of this kind as a rule is only given to those whom we find in urgent need, and who must be helped to food before the officers can be reached.

Our meetings, both of the Society and of the Board of Directors, have been well attended during the year. Not a meeting of the Board has been omitted, and at every meeting there was a quorum on hand for the transaction of business, prompt and interested. Not more than two of the weekly meetings of the Association were passed by, those being during the most sultry weather, and even then some of the members gathered at the Home ready for duty if needed. This faithfulness is due in a great measure to our worthy Vice-President, Mrs. L. L. Withey, who is ever at her post, a veritable "stand-by," at each gathering. The Matron's report for the past year shows that a total of one hundred and forty have been cared for at the Home for different periods of time. Many nationalities were represented, the American predominating. Of this number twenty-two were supported by the city, forty-eight by the county, and seventy by the Society.

The main feature of our new work is the Industrial School, an institution our Association has been interested in, in theory, and anxious to secure for some time,—a sort of hobby, indeed, with some us. It is now an accomplished fact, and though but fairly started,—so new its future cannot be assured by any means,—thus far we are compelled to believe as well as hope that it has been a success even greater than we could expect. The Board of Education

very cheerfully and kindly co-operated with the Association in starting the school, and in assisting to maintain it, and manifests a spirit towards it and the Association for which we should be grateful, and for which as a society we have returned thanks. Thus far the school numbers about forty members, and the prospects are that as fast as they can be cared for (our facilities being rather limited as yet), it will have more until it will number fifty or sixty pupils; and these are in most cases waifs, who would not, but for the school, get any useful training, either industrially or intellectually. They would grow up in idleness and ignorance, illy prepared to care for themselves in life, and almost surely would but for it, or something like it, become either criminals or subjects for the care of our successors in this and other charitable societies. And, so far as we can judge, our efforts and intentions are aided most admirably by the teachers of the school, both the one secured by the committee of the Association, who oversees the school, and the one appointed by the board. The school is a burden of no small magnitude for us, for it has cost no little effort to provide the clothing furnished the children, to make it possible for them to attend the school. It is quite an expense, too, to furnish the new cloth used by the children in their industrial training. But in this latter particular, we hope to get back for others in the work they will do in the making of garments, bedding, etc., something of what is expended besides the benefit accruing to them in the instruction given them. Should the school prosper as we hope—and as it ought—it will become an institution that will demand no small share of our energies and funds. But we are convinced that in it our bread cast upon the waters will come back, and that before many days are past. Our review gives us cause for thankfulness for the success that has attended us, and the hope we may reasonably have for the future.

After the reading of the report, Mrs. Fuller of Grand Rapids made some explanatory remarks in relation to the work of the Society.

Mrs. A. L. Jarvis followed with a report from St. Mark's Home and Hospital of Grand Rapids.

REPORT OF ST. MARK'S HOME AND HOSPITAL, GRAND RAPIDS, MICH., RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED TO THE SUPERINTENDENTS OF THE POOR, AT THEIR ANNUAL CONVENTION, HELD AT KALAMAZOO, JANUARY 31ST, 2ND, AND 3RD, 1890.

In conformity with the programme of this Convention, the Executive Committee of the institution above alluded to, herewith submit their fourth annual report. It would be very easy to preface this with a review of the varied forms of charity and the diversion of work into new channels, of this Association, since your last annual meeting; but this would necessarily lengthen our article, and as interest centers chiefly in the intelligence of figures, let us not delay in presenting statistics. Since our last statement of corresponding date, there have been admitted into the Home one hundred and fifty-six persons. Of this number there have been dismissed one hundred and thirty, leaving the present number of inmates twenty-six,—deaths that have occurred, three; births, one; number of permanent inmates, seventeen. Twenty children have been received during the year, many of whom have obtained good homes by adoption and otherwise, through the kindly aid of this Society. Of those who paid in whole or part for board, there have been forty-nine; chargeable to the city, twenty-one; county, twenty-eight; St. Mark's Church, six; self-supporting, eight; specifically charitable inmates, twenty-four; number of

From these figures, you will perceive that, in comparison with preceding years, neither our applicants nor our work have in any way diminished. The encouragement and liberality of our friends and patrons stimulates the continuance of this good work, and such kindly manifestation of Christian benevolence means an additional evidence of love for humanity, combined with a duty of society to individuals. There may be those among you unacquainted with our organization, or the assistance and relief that is given by them. To these I would say, our institution was founded by and is under the care of the Protestant Episcopal Church, but is not sectarian in the work done or charities bestowed. Its doors have ever been open to all worthy objects, irrespective of creed, nationality, or color, and the protection and relief that has here been given to the sick and indigent, a generous public fully appreciate.

Our Executive Committee numbers twenty ladies, with an average attendance of twelve members. These are appointed by the Trustees of our institution, having their proper officers—President, Secretary, and Treasurer. They have the superintendence of the Home, and the management of the domestic affairs of the same. Our medical staff consists of four physicians, among the oldest and best rank of the faculty.

A competent Matron has the general supervision and oversight of the Home; also an experienced nurse to care for the sick and enfeebled.

The annual cost of maintaining this institution is given in the following report of the Treasurer since the beginning of the year, viz.:

January 20th, 1879, and on hand at that date, to January 20th, 1880, the cash receipts from all sources have been	$2,636 42
The disbursements during the same period have been	2,048 60
Leaving a balance in the general fund of	$587 82
In the trust fund the cash on hand is	375 25
Making the total of cash on hand	$963 07

From this statement it is obvious our growth and condition as an Association is highly prosperous. Although we are under the auspices of St. Mark's Church, ours is not a self-supporting work. We are largely aided by the free-will offerings of the public. For the sympathy and material aid of a discriminate people, we are indeed truly grateful.

In concluding this brief résumé, Mr. President and gentlemen of this Convention, allow me in behalf of the institution which I represent, to express my acknowledgments of your repeated courtesies and kind considerations. May your councils in the future as in the past prove both harmonious and profitable, and as the almoners of the public trust, may your untiring zeal and large-hearted benevolence receive—as they merit—their just reward.

Pres. Humphrey, in a few brief remarks, expressed a wish that the election of a President and Vice-President might be disposed of before any of the members left.

Supt. Hall approved the suggestion, and nominated William Chamberlain of Three Oaks for President.

Mr. Chamberlain was unanimously elected.

He was also declared unanimously elected Vice-President.

Another song from Miss Root, and the Convention adjourned to meet at half-past eight Friday morning.

THIRD DAY.

KALAMAZOO COUNTY COURT HOUSE,
Friday Morning, 9 A. M.

Pres. Humphrey called to order, and offered prayer.

The minutes of the previous day were read and approved.

Under a call for reports, Secretary Cobb made a verbal report covering the business of preparing and having printed the proceedings of the last session of this Association.

As he was without direction from any one as to time of printing, number of copies that could be used to advantage, and to whom they should be distributed, he had suited his own convenience as to time of preparing the material of the proceedings for publication—had caused one thousand copies to be printed and distributed to each member present, enough to supply each Superintendent of the Poor of the State with a copy, and if not otherwise directed, proposed to send the State officers and each member of the Legislature a copy.

The report was approved.

Treasurer Green submitted the following report, which, on motion, was accepted and adopted:

Superintendents of the Poor and Union Association of Michigan in account with the Treasurer.

1879.			
Jan. 21.	By amount as per report this date	$36 62	
	membership dues received of J. T. Cobb, Secretary	55 00	
			$91 62
Jan. 21.	For amount paid S. D. Humphrey for all accounts allowed by Executive Committee this date		44 40
	Balance on hand January 23, 1880		$47 22

There have been no accounts allowed as yet at this session, nor membership dues received by me of the Secretary.

T. D. GREEN,
Treasurer.

KALAMAZOO, Jan'y 23, 1880.

W. W. Hodge moved that the Convention proceed to elect a Secretary and Treasurer for the ensuing year.

Secretary Cobb was unanimously re-elected.

Supt. Rand nominated Isaac Lewis of Monroe, and he was unanimously elected.

Dr. Humphrey, retiring from the chair, called Supt. Hyde, Vice-President-elect, who, with a few brief remarks, accepted the office, and entered at once upon the discharge of its duties as presiding officer of the convention.

Dr. Humphrey, now a resident of Fargo, D. T., then delivered a farewell address.

TO THE VICE-PRESIDENT:—You now occupy a chair that has many arduous duties, but together with the President, who is now detained from our gathering by illness, you will no doubt fully meet the responsibility of your respective offices. We regret that severe sickness has prevented the Hon. Wm. Chamberlain, President elect of this Association, from meeting with us at this time. Our sympathy is with him and his family. I am glad to feel that your unanimous election to the position you now occupy is but the expression of merited confidence by the members of this Association.

GENTLEMEN OF THE ASSOCIATION:—It is with sincere and heartfelt regret that I take leave of this body. For the past five years my heart has been with yours in the work of relieving the distress of suffering humanity. Our experiences have been similar, councils mutual, our cares have been equal in the sympathy we have felt for those who may have been overtaken by misfortune, and appealed to public charities for relief. You, gentlemen, will remain here as representatives of the interest of a prosperous and generous people—a people who may be proud of you as wise and conscientious servants, faithful to the trust in your charge. It has, in the course of your official capacity, been your fortunate privilege to become familiar with the various State institutions, charitable, reformatory, and educational. Your ever attentive and watchful care to the trust imposed in you has led you to study the growth and success of these institutions—institutions that reflect credit upon the State of Michigan, and attract the admiration of the citizensof this great Republic. This State stands in the front rank, with her noble institutions. They are the results of wisdom, experience, and *generous liberality*. We are about to close the proceedings of this Convention, you to return to your homes in this State, while I leave for my new home in the great and growing northwest, where I may walk along the banks of the Red River of the North and witness its peaceful waters, cast my eyes over the broad, fertile plain, with its boundless, rich soil, and see the rich golden grain promising an abundant harvest. Amid this surrounding grandeur, where nature has presented herself with all of her beauty, my thoughts will revert back to this scene, and those of the past, while I shall reflect upon the many happy gatherings we have mutually enjoyed. These reflections will bring consolation in my declining years.

I see around me those whose gray hairs betoken the weight of years and experience, and remind we that we too will soon leave this sphere of action and become the recipients of the charity of our blessed Redeemer, who came to earth to teach us to love one another, and point the way to the harbor of eternal life. It fills my heart to overflowing with sadness to bid you farewell. The tear that burns the cheek of the child, as it marks its course of sorrow, is not like the silent, solemn beating of the heart of a man of years, which overflows with love for those whose labor in a common cause has united by a bond of sympathy.

The site for the Reform School for Girls, authorized by the Legislature of 1879, not having been definitely determined, Mrs. Fuller of Grand Rapids, a

member of the State Board of Control of the Reform School, desiring to obtain some favorable expression from the Convention, presented the claims of Grand Rapids for the location of that Institution.

No definite action was taken by the Convention upon the subject presented.

Reports from Superintendents of the Poor were then resumed, and we give in substance a few of the reports to indicate the general magagement of superintendents.

Mr. Calkins reported for Allegan county. They have separate buildings for children and the insane, costing $1,500 and $2,000 respectively, in addition to the Poor-House building, which cost $5,000. The county employs a keeper at $500, a teacher for two dollars per week in the children's building, where there are eight inmates; and a woman to remain with the insane, whose husband is employed on the county farm. There are also two hired girls, who assist and act as nurses for the sick. The entire annual expenditure for the poor is $10,000.

Mr. Van Auken reported for Van Buren, that they spent last year $9,500 for the poor. They have thirty-two permanent inmates in county-house, and forty-one permanent paupers outside. They pay in temporary relief $5,000 to $6,000. They have a 173-acre farm, 122 improved. They raise all their provisions and about $1,000 surplus to sell. They hire the children kept in families, and do not put them in the county-house, which is a miserable place. The county has wasted money enough by expenditures outside the county-house to put up a first-class building. The citizens have repeatedly voted down propositions to raise money for a new house. The supervisors, however, will submit a vote for $1,500 for this purpose. They pay $600 to the keeper and furnish his help.

Mr. Meacham reported for Kent county. Last year they spent about $7,000 for the poor. The appropriation this year is $3,500. In 1875 they spent $13,000. They have a farm of one hundred and four acres, that provides them butter, eggs, and grain for the house. They have a good overseer, who is an excellent manager of the inmates. The buildings are somewhat old, the best portion being that set aside as a department for idiots.

Mr. Guild, the keeper of the Kent county Poor-House, stated that the building had a good foundation, but was built from time to time, in sections to meet a new want as it arose, and was of course but poorly adapted to the purpose for which it is used. They have forty-five inmates,—mostly insane, idiotic, or demented. The patients are tractable, and do a large amount of work. They raised last year, in bushels, 566 of wheat, 561 of oats, 500 of potatoes, 1,000 of corn. One hundred cords of wood was cut with pauper labor. There are only two township paupers. The keeper uses little force but keeps them engaged. He has very little trouble with the insane. They pay the county doctor $200 a year, who visits them once a week.

Mr. H. Conkling reported for Lenawee. They pay $14,000 for the poor, for

all purposes, besides the asylum bill. They have a county-house with a capacity of one hundred and fifty, heated by steam. It is twenty years old. They have sixty-six inmates. They raise their supplies, and sold last year a surplus of $300. They paid the recent keeper $1,400, and he furnished all the help. They pay the new keeper—just employed—$1,000, and furnish part of his help. They pay for physicians, $290 at Adrian, and $140 at the county-house. They pay $9,000 for temporary relief,—one-half in Adrian.

Mr. Crawford reported for Montcalm county. They pay out for all purposes $6,000. They keep the inmates comfortable. They pay the physician $200 for all county-house service and certain other attendance. They have one hundred and twenty acres of land,—all improved. They make the farm support the keeper. They have cut down the doctors' bills in the townships.

At this point, the President stated that a volunteer committee of ladies consisting of Mrs. d'Arcambal and Mrs. Wm. Chamberlain, wife of the President-elect, had a very pleasant duty to perform, to which the convention would now give attention.

The committee came forward, and Mrs. d'Arcambal, in a very neat speech, presented Dr. Humphrey with a fine gold-headed cane, appropriately inscribed, as a token from the Association of its appreciation of his faithful labors while serving as its presiding officer.

Dr. Humphrey replied with much feeling, stating that in coming from the distant valley of the Red River of the North, he had hoped to surprise the Association, but had not looked for any surprises from this body. He had endeavored to perform his duty to the Association and to the public, and felt a pride in being able to say that no trust confided to him had been betrayed. This event was one of the happiest of his life. He wished the members of the Convention prosperity in their work, and hoped that they would live to see those they had aided in the enjoyment of life, prosperous and happy. He hoped that they would have a grateful recognition from the public, as well as from the friends of public charities. He could not express his feelings at this expression of regard, but he should always keep the Convention and their work in mind, and hoped that God would give them a peaceful walk and final rest in Heaven.

REPORTS FROM SUPERINTENDENTS RESUMED.

Mr. John T. Cook reported for Mecosta. Their county-farm was several miles northwest of Big Rapids. They have an old house not suited to its purposes. They pay the keeper $400, and furnish everything.

Mr. Clayton of Mason county reported that they had to take care of a great many Indians in winter, who did not turn their farms to very good account, and would starve if the supervisors did not look after them.

L. E. Wright of Newaygo stated that they had a 55-acre farm, largely stump land. They raise the vegetables, eggs, and butter used. In the season wild berries are picked and canned for winter. They raise no wheat, but corn

and potatoes. They pay in all $3,000, and for a physician $75, he attending to the county-house and the township where it is situated. The supervisors are officious, and leave little work to the superintendents. One case was mentioned of a poor man who applied to a supervisor and was given an order for $20 on the county treasurer. It was found that he was about to move to another place, and wanted to build a house.

Mr. H. A. Clark reported for Osceola. The poor expenses had been $7,000 a year when the county had only 3,000 or 4,000 population. They spent only $2,037 last year for a population of 11,000. They have a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, fifty-five under cultivation. They pay their keeper $500. They have an average of five or six in their county-house. They furnish temporary relief, and think it the cheapest. They are sometimes imposed on, but many whom they have assisted a little are now tax-payers. He thought that Superintendents in older portions of the State had sometimes sent men up there, representing that region as an Eden. Lands are rising there, however, and if more such cases are sent, he said he hoped enough money would be sent along for the first payment on the land. Their physician and drug bills had been in former years as high as $2,000 in a year, but now they divide the county into two districts, along the two railroads, paying a physician in one $125, and in the other $100.

Mr. C. Pond reported for Shiawassee. Their farm has eighty acres, sixty improved. They spent last year $5,800, which is less than previous years. They pay the keeper $1,000, he furnishing his team and two cows. They pay $2,700 for temporary relief. The keeper's wife makes the clothing of the inmates. They kept twenty-one inmates last year. Temporary relief is mainly dispensed by the supervisors. They furnish no passes to tramps.

Mr. Mason reported for Menominee county, which has not heretofore been represented in the Association. Their population does not exceed 8,000. The Poor-House is seven and one-half miles northwest of Menominee village. They spent last year $2,600, against $7,000 two years ago. They have but three inmates in the county-house. The keeper keeps the inmates for what he can get from the farm. They have principally to care for men who are disabled in the pineries or the mines.

Mr. J. F. VandeVanter reported for St. Joseph Co. Their farm is in the southeast part of the county, the building being an old one. They have under forty inmates; pay the keeper and his wife $700; pay the physician $75. The house is not arranged in wards. They have one hundred and ninety acres,—one hundred and forty improved,—and raise more grain and hay than they consume. The county appropriates $12.000, of which $3,000 are for asylum bills. No distinction is made with regard to townships. Their tramps come around at all hours,—from seven to twelve,—midnight. He had a pile of wood for them to cut. About half would come around in the morning to work. The tramp question has changed this winter. The class that is willing to work no longer

applied, and it is only the vicious who are on the move. He has the citizens send all tramps to him, and tells them when they apply that he will give them a place to stay—not a bed, though—and a "square meal," which will keep them for starving twenty-four hours. If he finds them in the county forty-eight hours after, he will arrest them as vagrants. This course has been telegraphed up and down the line, and tramps do not bother Sturgis now.

One of the ladies of Grand Rapids said that it was sometimes claimed by temperance speakers that intemperance was the source of nine-tenths of the pauperism in this country. If such were not the case, the superintendents owed it to the State to show what the real fact was, and let the falsity of the statement appear. One of the superintendents stated that the reports of the superintendents uniformly bore out the statement.

Judge Hall stated that intemperance was the main source of pauperism, but the trouble was not going to be banished during the lifetime of anybody in that Convention.

The Convention adjourned at 12:20, to meet next at Lansing, Tuesday, Jan. 18, 1881, at 7 P. M. The discussions of this meeting have been entered into with spirit and earnestness, and the sessions have been very harmonious. Some of the superintendents have been in this service a great many years, while others are serving their first year. Twenty-four counties have been represented, three benevolent associations, two State institutions, and forty-seven representatives of the work have been in attendance, two of whom were keepers of county-houses.

Several changes have occurred since the date of the last Convention, which interfered with the arrangements for this one quite seriously. The President, Dr. S. D. Humphrey of Marquette, has changed his residence, leaving Michigan for Fargo, D. T., and did not anticipate being present, nor suppose that he would be counted longer as a member of this body of Michigan officers, He left the arrangements with Wm. Chamberlain, Vice-President, but the unexpected illness of that gentleman, commencing just before Christmas, had greatly interfered with the preparations. The meeting, however, despite these drawbacks, has been very pleasant and profitable, and a source of enjoyment to citizens in attendance, as well as to members of the Convention.

J. T. COBB,
Secretary.

EDUCATION VERSUS HEREDITY.

A PAPER READ BY L. P. ALDEN, SUPERINTENDENT OF THE MICHIGAN STATE PUBLIC SCHOOL BEFORE THE CONVENTION OF THE SUPERINTENDENTS OF THE POOR AT GRAND RAPIDS, JUNE, 1878.

The aim of this paper is to examine some of the well-established facts respecting hereditary transmission, and from them deduce a few practical conclusions:

That parents in some way transmit many of their qualities to their offspring has been universally believed. This belief has found expression in such proverbs as these: "The fathers have eaten sour grapes and the children's teeth are set on edge;" "blood will tell;" "like produces like;" "he is a chip out of the old block," etc.

This belief is based on well known facts. So regular is the operation of the law of heredity in the transmission of physical qualities, that fruit growers and stock breeders rely upon it implicitly.

In the human species, also, the qualities of the parent are often transmitted to their offspring. The personal resemblance of the child to the parent is often very remarkable. It may be noticed in the general structure of the body, the height, size, tendency to obesity or leanness, in the color of the hair and eyes, in the gait, peculiar movements of the body, expression of the face, tones of the voice, and various other things.

Certain diseases, like scrofula, or consumption, are known to run in families for generations, scarcely a member, in many instances, escaping. We have all known of large families of children, apparently perfectly healthy in early life, who inherited this dread disease, and were swept off by it, one by one, on arriving at about the same period of life. The greatest care and precaution failed to arrest its development.

On the other hand, vitality and longevity seem to run in families. In the branch of the Alden family from which my father descended, the average age of six successive generations was 79 years.

It would seem that heredity, ordinarily, has as much to do with determining how long an individual shall live, as food, climate, or the habits of life. Negro slaves, exposed to the greatest hardships, often live to a remarkable age. Sojourner Truth, who is supposed to be nearly 100 years of age, and "Father Johnson," who died a few years ago at Ypsilanti, at the age of 120 years, both for many years slaves, are remarkable instances of this. Living-

stone and Cameron both speak of the remarkable longevity of many of the natives of Africa, who, notwithstanding the unfavorable influence of climate, wretched food, and filthy habits common to barbarous nations, sometimes reached the extraordinary age of 130 years.

Blindness and deafness are also inherited. Ribot relates that "in one family blindness was hereditary for three generations, and thirty-seven children and grandchildren became blind between their seventeenth and eighteenth year, and that a father and four children were attacked with blindness at the age of twenty-one, and two brothers, their father, their paternal grandfather, all became deaf at the age of forty."

Immunity from contagious diseases, or a remarkable susceptibility thereto, runs in certain families. Muscular strength, swiftness of foot, grace in dancing, skill in playing instruments, and in acrobatic performances, are, as is well known, transmissible physical qualities.

Anomalies of physical organization are transmitted. A prominent citizen in this State has malformed feet and hands; several of his children have inherited the malformation, and cases of sexdigitism are on record which were transmitted through four generations. But what has been stated of physical qualities, seems also to be true of mental faculties.

Mental diseases are often transmitted. In one insane asylum, 88 out of 220 cases of insanity were found to be hereditary. In another, 75 out of 152 cases were found to be hereditary, and it is supposed that about 35 per cent of all cases of insanity are hereditary. I know of a family in this State, at least seven members of which have already committed suicide. The grandfather cut his throat, one of his sons committed suicide in the same way, another son took laudanum, a granddaughter cut her throat, a grandson took prussic acid, and two granddaughters drowned themselves.

The talent for music is almost always inherited; and it is quite doubtful, whether there is a musician of any note now living, one or both of whose parents did not possess some musical ability. A person without this natural gift may be taught to play an instrument mechanically, but no amount of training will make them musicians. Mozart, Rossini, Bellini, Beethoven, and Bach are noted examples of this. I know of a family consisting of six sons and three daughters, all of whom had fine musical talents. The father and mother of this family were excellent singers, the father having had for many years a local reputation as a successful teacher of vocal music. This gift is still perpetuated in all branches of the family, down to the fourth generation, which has numbered nearly one hundred singers. Other talents are also transmitted, but time will allow me to mention only a few familiar instances.

The family of Scipio Africanus Major was distinguished in Roman history through twelve generations, covering a period of more than three hundred years, for having produced many great generals and statesmen.

Five brothers of the Washburn family have been distinguished as the Governors of three different states, as Congressmen, Generals, and Diplomates. John Adams was second President of the United States; his son John Quincy also became President, and his grandson Charles Francis became an author, and was Minister to England.

The family of James G. Blaine has displayed unusual ability for four generations. Dr. Lyman Beecher was the leading orator of his day. Six of his sons and daughters have a national reputation as preachers or writers.

Moral qualities are also often transmitted. The family of nine children, already alluded to, were the children of very excellent parents. The father

was a man of great virtue and exemplary piety, and for many years a prominent deacon in his own church. All of his children became pious, and, through long lives, proved very useful members of society in the various places where they lived. Two of the sons and several of the grandsons became prominent church officers. The whole family has, up to the present time, numbered several hundred members, not one of which has ever become a pauper or criminal, and very few have ever used liquors or tobacco.

On the other hand, vicious, criminal, and pauper proclivities are handed down from generation to generation.

The Scriptures teach us that "the sins of the fathers are visited upon the children to the third and fourth generation."

In the old world the examples are very numerous where vagabondism, pauperism, and crime have run in certain families for generations. In this country, while the instances of this are not yet so numerous, they still are found. It is stated that in the Jersey City almshouse there are pauper families of three generations, grand-parents, parents, and grand-children.

I find in a late annual report of the proceedings of the directors of the poor of Pennsylvania this statement: "Go back to the time when this almshouse was built, and what has become of the children that were with their parents there? Their families are in the almshouse to-day, grand-parents and grand-children. They are turned out at eighteen and come back again with a family of children, and they grow up and go out only to come back again."

Dr. Luther, the Secretary of the State Board of Charities and Corrections of Pennsylvania, on a visit to the Berks County poor house found one hundred children there and said to the authorities, "Why don't you get them out?" The answer was, "Come and look at them." "I went out," he says, "and found children with big heads, deformed, crippled, blind, and deaf, all sprung from the defective classes," He adds, "Illegitimates reproducing themselves and sending out the deaf, dumb, and blind, is a fearful question in our state and in all other states."

The Juke family, so often alluded to, the history of which has been carefully studied by R. S. Dugdale of the New York Prison Association, is the most remarkable instance of this on record. In this family, out of a line running through six generations, numbering 834 persons, 206 were paupers, 76 persons were convicted of crime, and 128 were prostitutes.

But while a vast array of facts may be presented to prove that as a general thing the qualities of the parents are transmitted to their offspring, it is also true that the law of heredity is by no means uniform in its operations. The apparent exceptions are very numerous—so numerous as to lead many to doubt whether there is any such law.

There are cases on record where not the least mental or moral resemblance between the offspring and the ancestors, whether near or remote, can be traced. Great men often suddenly spring from the most obscure families—men who seem to have been raised up for a special end, like Moses, the great law-giver, David, Mohammed, Toussaint L'Overture, and Lincoln. Often parents of very limited intellectual faculties have children possessing remarkable gifts. Socrates, esteemed by the oracle of Apollo the wisest of all men, was the son of a low woman. The mother of Euripides, the tragic poet, was a market woman, and Demosthenes, the prince of orators, was the son of a poor tradesman in knives. Livingstone, Kitto, Hans Christian Andersen, Randolph Rogers, Hugh Miller, Stanley, Edison, and multitudes of other distinguished men were the children of poor and obscure parents.

Sometimes, too, children of vicious and criminal ancestors possess all the virtues. Among the Indians, Esquimaux, Greenlanders, and African tribes, travelers have occasionally found men of grand intellects and noble natures.

On the contrary, children of the most virtuous ancestors sometimes become monsters in crime, though fortunately these cases are extremely rare.

These facts are well established, and are explained by Lucas, Maudsley, and others, by the law of spontaneity or variation, which they claim runs side by side with the law of heredity. Heredity is the centripetal force, and spontaneity or variation the centrifugal. Heredity, according to these, conserves and perpetuates what spontaneity invents and creates. Ribot, however, admits no such law. Heredity is the only law, and the exceptions are only accidents and the results of chance. He claims, moreover, that most of these exceptions are only apparent, and could probably be explained in accordance with this law, if we knew all the facts.

But a more practical inquiry is, whether evil hereditary tendencies which have actually appeared can be arrested in their development, and if so, how? There are those who firmly believe that they cannot be. They believe that a child comes into the world bound hand and foot, as unimpressible as a marble statue, and that its whole career is determined by the circumstances of its birth. Intellectual, moral, and religious training will avail nothing in changing that career and breaking those bonds. Spencer says, "the fact is that scarcely any connection exists between morality and the discipline of ordinary teaching. Mere culture of the intellect (and education, as usually conducted, amounts to little more) is hardly at all operative in conduct." Others admit that it plays some part in changing the structure of society, and in moulding individual characters, but that its influence is comparatively small. Ribot says, "We restrict education (and by education he includes, doubtless, the moral and religious training of a child), as we think, within its just limits, when we say that its power is never absolute, and that it exerts no efficacious action except upon mediocre natures. Suppose the various human intelligencies to be so graduated as to form a great linear series, rising from idiocy, the bottom of the scale, to genius, which is at the top. The influence of education is at its minimum at the two ends of the series. On the idiot it has hardly any effect. Unheard of exertions and prodigies of patience often produce only insignificant and transient results, but as we rise towards the middle degrees, this influence grows greater. It attains its maximum in average minds, which, being neither good nor bad, are much what chance makes them; but as we ascend toward the higher forms of intelligence, we see it again decrease, and as we come nearer to the highest order of genius, it tends towards its minimum. So variable is the influence of education that we may doubt whether it is ever absolute. It is not rare to find children skeptical in religious families, or religious in skeptical families, or debauched men amid good examples. We would not, however, in the least, detract from its importance. Education, after centuries of effort, has made us what we are."

Conversely, there are those who believe that the environment of the child, which includes all the external influences which can be brought to bear upon its life, is the controlling factor in determining its career. Solomon said, "train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it."

Leibnitz said: "Entrust me with education, and in less than a century I will change the face of Europe." Locke believed that "out of 100 men,

more than 90 are good or bad, useful or harmful to society, owing to the education they have received."

R. S. Dugdale, who made a study of the history of the Juke family, believes that morality can be organized in any healthy child by judicious training, and points to numerous instances in the history of that family, where children inheriting as bad proclivities as those of their brothers and sisters who became paupers, criminals, and prostitutes, were saved by being removed from the bad environment of their homes, and placed under better influence. He believes that while heredity is potent, environment is pre-potent.

Doubtless the truth lies between these extremes of opinion. Facts are always of more value than theories. Gathered on a large scale, they prove that heredity is a powerful factor in shaping the character and determining the outline of a person's life; but that, powerful as hereditary proclivities are, they may be checked and often counterbalanced by education and christianizing influences. From the pirates and mutineers of the ship Bounty, who settled on Pitcairn's Island, a Christian community has grown up through the simple reading of the Bible. Travelers say that a more virtuous, amiable, and religious community than these islanders, the children and grandchildren of desperate murderers and outlaws, has never been seen. Only sixty years ago, the South Sea Islanders were cannibals, and so degraded that one of the early missionaries, on first beholding them, exclaimed, "Is it possible that these wretches can be human beings?" And yet, to-day among them are 400,000 Christians, and the people of the Sandwich Islands are more generally educated than those of any other nation on earth. Similar results have been obtained among all nations, and it is never to be forgotten that, only a few centuries ago, our ancestors in England were ignorant, cruel barbarians. The experience, too, of various institutions for saving children, demonstrates that the majority of children, even though of bad parentage, and naturally inclined to evil, may be saved from crime, and fitted for good citizenship, by surrounding them with favorable influences at the most impressible period of their lives. From 65 to 90 per cent of the inmates of well conducted reformatories for youth, the world over, become respectable citizens. The inmates of Mettray, France, are all of a criminal class, and yet, for nearly forty years over 90 per cent of them, on an average, have become good citizens.

The Michigan State School furnishes a fine field for observation in these things. The children of this institution are all gathered from the unfortunate classes and many of them are the offspring of vicious parents. A careful record of their social relations previous to entering the school, is preserved in the History Book, as well as of their career subsequent to admittance. With so many opportunities for studying this question, one would be a dull observer indeed, who after five years of constant intercourse with more than nine hundred of these children, had not formed some conclusions respecting it. My observation has led me to the conclusion that ante-natal influences have very much to do, ordinarily, with determining the general character and disposition of the child, but that, in the great majority of cases, these influences may be partly or entirely neutralized by education, if commenced at an early period of the child's life, with favorable surroundings, and continued through a term of years. And by education is meant physical, mental, and moral training.

The children of this institution may be divided into several classes. The first class includes the children of respectable but unfortunate parents, constituting not more than twenty-five per cent of the whole number. Few of

this class prove incorrigible or troublesome, unless they have acquired vicious habits by bad associations, which can soon be eradicated. The second class includes those who, though the children of parents one or both of whom may be dissipated, vicious or criminal, are, nevertheless, comparatively fair children. Quite a number of this class are found who seem to have no moral resemblance to their parents and whose virtues may have been inherited from remote ancestors. Sometimes, too, it is quite noticeable that all of the children of a family will resemble their vicious parents, except one who escapes the operation of the law and proves to be a very desirable child.

The third group includes the children of vicious parents who, in varying degrees of strength, inherit the evil propensities of their parents. This class comprises more than one-third of the entire number. Making all due allowances for the evil influences about them previous to entering the institution, one cannot avoid the conclusion that heredity has had more to do with forming their character than environment; for, many even of those who enter the school at quite an early age show marked proclivities toward wrong. And yet the indications are that the majority of this class even can be saved to good citizenship by judicious training, commenced at an early age, and continued through a term of years. Not that the effects of ante-natal influences will be entirely destroyed. The child born with a feeble intellect can never make a man of genius; the one of feeble constitution and pauper proclivities will never become a thoroughly wide-awake, energetic, and industrious man; the child of feeble will power will find it hard indeed to resist temptation; the kleptomaniac will often need to remember the commandment, "Thou shalt not steal;" and the passionate will fully realize that "he that ruleth his own spirit is greater than he that taketh a city." But these evil tendencies, if not too strong, may be checked in their development so as to entirely disappear in the next generation. The child may be furnished with weapons for battling with them, that shall enable it to come off victorious, though the conflict may continue through life. I have heard of a clergyman of distinction, who once confessed that he never entered the house of a parishioner without being strongly tempted to appropriate to himself things that did not belong to him. All through life he had been compelled to keep up a humiliating and bitter struggle against this tendency, yet his resistance was successful.

It will not, however, be safe to speak with certainty of the results of training this class of children, at the State Public school or elsewhere, until after they have completed their career. Many of them may at last fall that now promise fair, and some may develop well in after life, that now seem incorrigible. But to say the least, the indications are quite favorable that a large number of this particular class, who have inherited evil tendencies, will become fairly respectable citizens, and escape the poor-house and prison, though left where they were, the environment running parallel to the heredity, without the counter-balancing influences of education, most of them would, doubtless, have swelled the numbers of the pauper and criminal classes. Numerous instances connected with the State School work could be related, where children inheriting unusually strong proclivities towards wrong-doing, are becoming good children. There are, however, it must be acknowledged, quite a number, perhaps ten or fifteen per cent of all that enter the State School and all similar institutions, whose inherited proclivities to evil courses are so irresistible as to sweep over all obstacles that human agencies can oppose against them. I would not limit God's power to save them, but I firmly believe that no human agencies